

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination in this application.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention.

35 USC §103 Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato (US 6,266,085) in view of Takemura (US 6,657,658).

The present invention is a stand-alone camera capable of cropping images based on selecting a portion of an image displayed on the screen. The portion of the images selected is based upon placing two vertical lines and two horizontal lines on the screen to form a rectangle. The rectangle formed is smaller than the image on the screen and can be moved throughout the screen.

Kato describes a camera control device suitable for use in a videoconferencing setting in which the camera panning, tilting and zooming is controlled based upon two images displayed on a screen. Specifically, a first image is the maximum image visible based on maximum wide angle zoom capable by the camera. The second image is a rectangular portion of the first image. The camera is able to move based on the position of the second image.

Takemura describes a method and system for image processing in which trimming of an image is possible. An image is displayed on a monitor (21). The cursor (22) is moved to desired position (P1) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P1). The cursor (22) is then moved to desired position (P2) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P2). A desired area (25) is thereby formed which is smaller than the image on the screen.

Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object; a monitor for displaying an image; first forming unit responsive to a motion image frame forming instruction by an operator for forming a motion image frame smaller than a monitor frame on said monitor; and motion image display unit for displaying a motion image of said object picked up by said image pickup ~~means~~ unit in said motion image frame, wherein the motion image frame is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle, wherein an aspect ratio of a motion image frame or through image can be set arbitrarily since a bottom right point with respect to a top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as said bottom right point is below and right to said top left point, setting the size and shape of a motion image frame by setting an upper left point and a lower right point, said motion image frame being movable on a monitor frame, and a position of the motion image frame on the monitor frame is set separately, wherein when the aspect ratio of an outer frame of said motion image or through image display area attains a prescribed ratio, the user of said digital camera is notified of said aspect ratio of the outer frame attaining the prescribed ratio.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato (US 6,266,085) in view of Takemura (US 6,657,658) is respectfully requested.

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Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Shibata (US 5,689,300).

Shibata describes a teleconferencing system in which a minor frame area may be placed in a corner of a major frame area for viewing.

Claim 4 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Shibata (US 5,689,300) is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7, 12, 13, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Sarbadhikari (US 5,477,264).

Sarbadhikari describes an electronic imaging system having a digital camera, a computer system and a storage device. The storage device is used to store images taken from the camera and contains preloaded graphics which may be combined with the images taken by the digital camera.

Claim 20 has been amended in a similar manner to claim 1. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5-7, 12, 13, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura and further in view of Sarbadhikari (US 5,477,264) is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.
Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit
Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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